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Sandy Hoa Dang
Executive Director

PRESS RELEASE

VIETNAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION (VEF): PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION OF THE 2015 COHORT

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Hanoi, May 27, 2015 – The [Vietnam Education Foundation](http://www.vef.gov) (VEF), an independent U.S. Federal Government agency, is pleased to announce that 26 new Fellows will begin graduate studies in Fall 2015 and 4 new Visiting Scholars will undertake professional development programs during the upcoming academic year 2015-2016, at 24 leading universities in the United States (see the list below). The VEF Fellowship Program and the VEF Visiting Scholar Program are two of the outstanding educational programs offered by VEF in its mission to continue to strengthen the relationship between Vietnam and the United States and foster understanding between the people of the two countries through educational exchange and capacity building. To prepare the new Fellows and Visiting Scholars for their transition to the United States, VEF provides a comprehensive Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) program, which will be held from June 4-9, 2015, in Dong Nai and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Of the 26 new VEF Fellows, 14 will be pursuing Master's/Ph.D. degrees while 12 will be enrolled in Master's degree programs at highly regarded U.S. universities in various fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and health sciences. The fields specifically include agriculture, biological and biomedical sciences, computer science, engineering, natural resources, physical sciences, and public health. The specializations in the field of engineering include chemical, civil, computer, electrical, environmental and sustainable, and materials engineering. With this 13th cohort, VEF has placed a total of 528 Fellows at 98 highly regarded U.S. universities since 2003 when the VEF Fellowship Program began operations.

In addition, this year, the 9th cohort of Visiting Scholars will pursue self-designed postdoctoral training programs at highly regarded U.S. universities for up to 12 months, focusing on various fields in science and technology, including biological and biomedical sciences, computer science, engineering, and physical sciences. With this new cohort, VEF has awarded a total of 50 Visiting Scholar grants since the Visiting Scholar Program began in 2007.

Ms. Sandy Dang, VEF Executive Director, commented, “We are extremely pleased with this outstanding 2015 cohort of 26 Fellows and 4 Visiting Scholars who will join the ever-growing VEF network of U.S.-educated scientists and engineers and who will make tremendous contributions to Vietnam. The 2015 cohort succeeded in receiving the VEF Fellowships and Visiting Scholar Grants through a highly competitive selection process based on the candidates’ intellectual and academic merit.”

The extensive PDO for the 2015 Fellows and Visiting Scholars includes an outdoor experiential learning/team building program that will help strengthen their identity and relationships as VEF Fellows and Scholars. The skills and experiences gained from these activities will be useful when they undertake their programs in the United States. Two additional days of lectures and presentations, addressing immigration and visa matters, financial issues, health issues, travel and insurance requirements, cultural adaptation, life in the United States, academic expectations, and maintaining connections to Vietnam will help them prepare for their transition to the United States.

For more information about VEF, please visit the VEF website at: www.vef.gov

**U.S. UNIVERSITIES (24) HOSTING THE 2015 COHORT
OF VEF FELLOWS (26) AND VISITING SCHOLARS (4)**

No.	U.S. University
1	Arizona State University
2	Indiana State University
3	Iowa State University
4	Louisiana State University Health Science Center
5	Michigan State University
6	Northern Illinois University
7	Northwestern University
8	Oregon State University
9	Pennsylvania State University
10	Purdue University
11	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
12	University of Alabama
13	University of Arkansas
14	University of Georgia
15	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
16	University of Massachusetts Amherst

No.	U.S. University
17	University of Michigan
18	University of Minnesota
19	University of Mississippi
20	University of Notre Dame
21	University of Southern California
22	University of Texas at Arlington
23	University of Texas at Austin
24	University of Utah